

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 FRB-03 STR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECE, XG, OCON, EEWT, CSCE
SUBJ: ECE TRADE COMMITTEE - AD HOC MEETING ON MULTILATERAL SYSTEM
OF NOTIFICATION OF TRADE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, 15-16
SEPTEMBER 1977

REF: GENEVA A-188 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH ALL DELEGATIONS TRIED TO DISPLAY
A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD A STUDY OF THIS PROJECT
AS MANDATED BY THE CSCE FINAL ACT, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS
STRONGLY OPPOSED ANY EFFORT BY THE MEETING TO DEFINE
ITS SCOPE OR EXPEDITE THE STUDY. THERE SEEMS LITTLE CHANCE
THAT AN ECE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM WILL BE SET UP ON OTHER
THAN A PARTIAL AND EXPERIMENTAL BASIS IN THE FORESEEABLE
FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE AD HOC MEETING WAS HELD AS PART OF THE ECE TRADE
COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM TO DEFINE THE SCOPE AND FURTHER
DIRECTIONS FOR THE STUDY OF A NOTIFICATION SYSTEM
OF FOREIGN TRADE LAWS AND REGULATIONS CALLED FOR IN THE
FINAL ACT. THE U.S. POSITION HAS BEEN TO SUPPORT THE
STUDY, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OUR POSITION ON ANY EVENTUAL

SYSTEM.

3. THREE COUNTRIES - FINLAND, SWITZERLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA - ARE PARTICIPATING IN AN EXPERIMENT TO NOTIFY THE SECRETARIAT OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS ISSUED DURING PRE-SELECTED ONE-MONTH PERIODS. THERE COUNTRIES HAD A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS, BUT PARTICULARLY SOUGHT PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR WESTERN AND EASTERN COUNTRIES IN THE EXPERIMENT. SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS BY THE SECRETARIAT AND USDEL THAT DELEGATIONS SEEK SUPPORT OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE EXPERIMENT WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THUS NOT ADOPTED.

4. SEVERAL EC DELEGATIONS, NOTABLY FRG, UK, AND FRANCE, WITH GENTLE SUPPORT FROM THE CHAIR (NETHERLANDS), SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED ANY EFFORT TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF THE EVENTUAL SYSTEM. FRG AND UK DELS EXPRESSED THE VIEW PRIVATELY THAT EASTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO WEASEL OUT OF SUPPLYING NATIONAL PLAN INFORMATION. THUS A POLISH OBSERVATION THAT PLAN INFORMATION DID NOT FALL WITHIN THE CSCE DEFINITION OF "LAWS AND REGULATIONS" WAS NOT REFLECTED IN THE REPORT OF THE MEETING. FRG ALSO OPPOSED A U.S. SUGGESTION THAT THE EXPERIMENT AND PERHAPS THE EVENTUAL SYSTEM BE MADE MORE REALISTIC BY EXCLUDING TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.
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5. PERHAPS IRONICALLY, THE SAME MAJOR WESTERN DELEGATIONS WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE EAST WILL EVER ACTUALLY PROVIDE PLAN OR OTHER INFORMATION TO THE SYSTEM THAT IS NOT NOW AVAILABLE; THEY SAW NO OTHER MERIT IN THE PROPOSED SYSTEM BUT FOR POLITICAL REASONS WILL NOT LET THE STUDY DIE UNTIL AFTER BELGRADE. NOT ALL EASTERN COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED; THE USSR DEL HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AND DID NOT SPEAK, AND HUNGARY PLEADED LACK OF POLITICAL GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPING THE STUDY FURTHER.

6. COMMENT: THE U.S. HAS TWO OBVIOUS ALTERNATIVES:
1) ENCOURAGE THE NEUTRALS BY PARTICIPATING IN THE EXPERIMENT, AND ATTEMPT TO REVERSE THE EC POSITION PRIOR TO THE ECE COMMITTEE ON TRADE MEETING IN NOVEMBER, OR (2) ACQUIESCE IN THE EC VIEW (SHARED BY CANADA) THAT THIS PROJECT HAS LITTLE MERIT, AND NOT PUSH THE STUDY. DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE NEUTRALS TO DATE, THE OUTLOOK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT DOES NOT APPEAR PROMISING. SORENSON

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